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In The Headlines

- Party signals end to Mali's consensus politics
- Mugabe, Zenawi, Bashir, Afewerki, Mubarak, Biya... world's worst deposit list
- Somali MPs aim to change clan power-sharing law
- Hizbul Islam in talk with Somali's TFG
- CLO urges Jonathan to prosecute Obasanjo
- Zimbabwe revises rules on foreign firm takeovers
- Cyprus probes arms on ship for Sudan
- Fresh fighting between JEM rebels and Sudanese army in Darfur
- Research project takes genetics to African roots
- Train crash in Southern Congo kills 60
- Why West Africa cannot break its drug habit

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65L0U020100622>

Party signals end to Mali's consensus politics

Mali's main political party signaled the end of the West African country's rare system of consensus-based politics on Tuesday by declaring that it would field its own candidate in a 2012 presidential election. The decision by the Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADEMA) came after President Amadou Toumani Toure confirmed he would stand down after two terms, as the constitution stipulates. Toure has no party affiliation but is supported by a coalition of ADEMA and virtually all other Malian parties. "We shall have our candidate, and that candidate will, by the will of God, win the elections," ADEMA party president Dioncouda Traore told national radio.

<http://en.afrik.com/article17839.html>

Mugabe, Zenawi, Bashir, Afewerki, Mubarak, Biya... world's worst deposit list

United States based think tank, Foreign Policy/Fund for Peace has ranked President Mugabe as the second worst despots in the world after North Korean Kim Jongil. The nearly 90-year-old Zimbabwean president is followed by the presidents of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt...

In an annual report released on Tuesday the think tank gave the 86 year old strongman the number one spot in Africa. "A liberation 'hero' in the struggle for independence who has since transformed himself into a murderous despot, Mugabe has arrested and tortured the opposition, squeezed his economy into astounding negative growth and billion-per cent inflation, and funneled off a juicy cut for himself using currency manipulation and offshore accounts." the think tank wrote on Mugabe. Mugabe, has been in power since 1980 and is showing no signs of retiring soon. The 86 year old recently told Zimbabweans that he is prepared to stand for another term of office when elections are held, probably in 2011.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65L0PZ20100622>

Somali MPs aim to change clan power-sharing law

A group of 176 Somali legislators is pushing for changes to the law that dictates how power is shared between the country's clans because they believe it is discriminatory, a former deputy speaker said on Tuesday. Mohamed Omar Dalha, a member of the newly-formed Umbrella for Guidance and Rescuing the Nation, told Reuters the group would seek to abolish Article 29 of the Transitional Federal Charter that institutes a power-sharing governance structure for Somalia's clan-based politics. According to a formula in the charter, Somalia's four major clans each receive 122 seats in the 550-seat parliament. The remaining 62 seats go to an alliance of dozens of minority clans.

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Hizbul_Islam_in_talks_with_Somali_TFG.s.html

Hizbul Islam in talk with Somali's TFG

A Somali minister claims his government is engaged in reconciliation talks with Somalia's second militant group, Hizbul Islam. Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister, who is also Deputy Prime Minister Abdirahman Hajji Aden Ibbi said the negotiations with the group, led by Islamist leader Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, have been going on for the past few weeks. "The talks are progressing well and we are very hopeful that we will reach agreement with Hizbul Islam because this group has no ties with Al Qaeda," Aden Ibbi told reporters in Mogadishu. "Hizbul Islam promised us that it would hand over the control of their areas before The 50th anniversary of Somalia's independence, we hope that the Somali flag will be raised in those areas, because this group is not against the sovereignty of our country," he added

Corruption

http://www.news.dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20928:clo-urges-jonathan-to-prosecute-obasanjo&catid=46:lead-stories&Itemid=140

CLO urges Jonathan to prosecute Obasanjo

The Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) has called on President Goodluck Jonathan to arrest and prosecute former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Vice President of the CLO Wisdom Uche Durueke said in a press briefing in Lagos yesterday, "The people presently investigated and prosecuted by the anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria since 1999 are minor thieves." Mr. Durueke said the 31 governors investigated by the former EFCC boss Nuhu Ribadu and found to be corrupt were yet to be prosecuted and punished for their crimes as he added that Nigerians were still waiting for the anti-graft bodies to declare how much they have recovered in their fight against corruption. He added that the demand for increase in allowances by members of the National Assembly was fraudulent and called for the downward review of the salaries and allowances and an increase in the minimum wage of civil servants.

Economic

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE65L0P520100622>

Zimbabwe revises rules on foreign firm takeovers

Zimbabwe has revised rules requiring foreign firms to transfer majority control to local blacks, with varying shareholding thresholds being set for different sectors of the economy, a minister said on Tuesday. The unity government of President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was deeply divided earlier this year after the publication of regulations forcing foreign-owned firms, including mines and banks, to transfer a 51 percent stake to black Zimbabweans. But Mugabe told a mining conference last month that the government was refining the controversial law in a bid to shore up desperately needed investment.

Conflict

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Cyprus%20probes%20arms%20on%20ship%20for%20Sudan/-/1066/944610/-/i4b0is/-/index.html>

Cyprus probes arms on ship for Sudan

Cyprus has intercepted a vessel carrying military equipment thought to be bound for Sudan, under an arms embargo by the United Nations and the European Union. Authorities said today the Antigua and Barbuda flagged vessel had been prevented from leaving Cypriot waters since June 11, when it anchored off the southern port of Limassol for refueling. "There is material (on board) which is considered prohibited from leaving Cyprus right now," Commerce Minister Antonis Paschalides told Cyprus radio. "When we speak of prohibited material it means explosives or military material." The daily Phileleftheros, which broke the story on Tuesday, said the vessel was transporting tanks and explosives, and was blocked after a tipoff from the United States. A spokesman at the US embassy in Nicosia said Washington was not involved.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article35469>

Fresh fighting between JEM rebels and Sudanese army in Darfur

Rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) clashed with the Sudanese army yesterday and today in the restive region of Darfur, army and rebels said.

The rebel JEM and Sudanese army said clashed in Uzbun Dooma, 120 km southeast of El Fasher the capital of North Darfur state on Monday. However the two parties alleged they inflicted heavy damage on the other side. We destroyed 35 vehicles and one tank, said JEM military spokesperson Ali Wafi. He also stressed that the government soldiers fled the battle in disarray. "The Army collapsed and it does not desire to fight," he said. The Sudanese army said it had attacked JEM rebels accusing them of entering Uzbun and causing a lot of chaos and instability in the area.

Health

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65L0RI20100622>

Research project takes genetics to African roots

-A \$37 million international collaboration by major research bodies in the United States, Britain and Africa wants to take the fruits of the genetic revolution to a continent it has largely bypassed until now. The project, named Human Heredity and Health in Africa or "H3Africa", will use genetic techniques developed in the West to explore the roots of human life among populations that carry the world's oldest and most diverse sets of genes. Founders of the plan say that 10 years after the first full human genome was mapped, what scientists can learn about genetic variation and disease in Africa will have global relevance. "Africa is the cradle of humanity, so things that we learn in Africa will undoubtedly have broad implications for peoples in all other parts of the planet," said Francis Collins, director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Tragedy

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10373571.stm>

Train crash in Southern Congo kills 60

About 60 people have been killed in a train crash in the south of Congo-Brazzaville, officials have said. The head of the rail operator, Chemin de Fer Congo-Ocean (CFCO), said it occurred on Monday night about 60km (37 miles) from the city of Pointe-Noire. The train is believed to have derailed as it went round a corner in a remote area between Bilinga and Tchitondi, throwing four carriages into a ravine. The dead and wounded have been taken to hospitals and morgues in Pointe-Noire. "There was a grave train accident during the night," CFCO director-general Sauveur Joseph El Bez told the AFP news agency.

"There are dozens of victims and injured." "The material damage was also very severe," he added. "All steps have been taken to organise relief."

Drug Trafficking

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10324206.stm>

Why West Africa cannot break its drug habit

The recent seizure of more than two tonnes of cocaine, worth an estimated \$1bn (about £675m) in The Gambia has once again shone a light on West Africa as a major transit point for narcotics making their way from Latin America to Europe. However, in the last three years, seizures of narcotics have gone down in the region. The latest figures available from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) show that 5.5 tonnes of cocaine were seized in West and Central Africa in 2007 whereas an unconfirmed 15 tonnes passed through a year previously. There has just been a repositioning of the criminal groups - they have changed their way of operating UNODC's Cyriaque Sobtafo But despite the falling figures, the UNODC and people on the ground in West Africa say that the drugs trade is on the increase. It is just that the traffickers are getting more sophisticated and the narcotics are getting harder to seize.